



Burlington County Parks System

Winter 2023-2024 Nature Programs

Tuesday Talks & Friday Forums

A series of nature walks led by Naturalist Jen Bulava on select Tuesdays and Fridays. Free--registration is required.

Winter Birding

Willingboro Lakes

Tuesday December 5 at 10:00 am [Register Here](#)

Friday December 8 at 10:00 am [Register Here](#)

December is a great time to look for water birds that migrate from northern breeding grounds to New Jersey for the winter, and Willingboro Lakes hosts many such species. While looking for migratory ducks, grebes, and coots on the lake, we will also scan for songbirds that prefer the safety and shelter of the pines.

Winter Ecology

Smithville Park

Tuesday January 23 at 10:00 am [Register Here](#)

Friday January 26 at 10:00 am [Register Here](#)

Take a walk around the historic side of Smithville to learn about the plants and animals that are found here and their adaptations for winter.

Waterfowl Walk

Rancocas Creek Greenway Trail, Riverside

Tuesday February 27 at 10:00 am [Register Here](#)

Friday March 1 at 1:00 pm [Register Here](#)

At the end of February, waterfowl diversity increases as more species congregate on the Delaware River and Rancocas Creek, preparing for their northbound migration. Our easy stroll on the paved Rancocas Creek Greenway Trail will give us a good vantage point to view the main stem of the Rancocas for waterfowl. Meets at Amico Island's parking lot.

Winter Tree ID

Rancocas Pointe Trail

Monday, December 11 @ 1:00pm [Register Here](#)

Willingboro Lakes Park

Monday, January 8 @ 1:00pm [Register Here](#)

Amico Island Park

Monday, February 5 @ 1:00pm [Register Here](#)

How can you identify trees in the winter after they lose their leaves? Bundle up and join Naturalist Gina to find out. Participants will learn how bark texture, growth patterns, twigs and buds provide clues to their identity.

Winter Bird Counts

Burlington County's version of the Christmas Bird Count, a scientific survey of the bird species that over-winter in the County Parks. Participants will identify species by sight and sound at specified locations within each County Park (not for beginner birders). If you would like to contribute your bird identification skills to help the Parks System with the census, please [register online](#). Group size is limited, and registration is required (all count dates open for registration on November 30). Exact start times will vary and are available at the time of registration. Prepare for at least 2 hours of cold and windy weather at each location. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 14: Willingboro Lakes & Rainbow Meadow

Friday, December 15: Pennington Park

Monday, December 18: Long Bridge Park

Tuesday, December 19: Smithville Park

Wednesday, December 20: Crystal Lake Park

Wednesday, January 3: Boundary Creek & Rancocas Pointe Trail

Thursday, January 4: Amico Island

Friday, January 5: Arney's Mount Park

Winter Solstice Sunset Hike

Long Bridge Park

Thursday, December 21 at 3:30pm [Register Here](#)

It may be the shortest day of the year, but the winter solstice holds the promise of longer days ahead. Bundle up and join Naturalist Gina to celebrate the arrival of astronomical winter on a guided walk ending as the sun sets. All ages welcome. **Registration is required.**

Second Day Sunset Hike

Amico Island Park

Tuesday, January 2 @ 3:30PM [Register Here](#)

Looking for a fresh start in 2024? Start the New Year off right and lace up your hiking shoes to join Naturalist Gina on January 2nd for a guided winter walk to soak in the sunset over the Delaware River. All ages welcome. **Registration is required.**

Basic Outdoor Survival Skills

Smith's Woods

Saturday, January 6, 1:00 pm – 4:00pm [Register Here](#)

Learn about basic survival skills for obtaining water, starting a fire, building a survival shelter, and signaling for rescue. This workshop is hands-on, so be ready to participate in activities. Co-led by Park Naturalist Jen Bulava & Damon Noe of The Nature Conservancy. For ages 13 and up. Registration required.

Fungi and Lichens: "Lich-en the Fungus Among Us"

Moorestown Library

Tuesday, January 9, 1:00pm

Senior naturalist Jen Bulava presents an overview of the important roles that lichens and fungi play in the environment (not for identifying individual species). The three main types of fungi will be discussed, with a focus on mycorrhizal associations with plants. Discover the many ways that people and animals use lichens. Gain a better appreciation of the beneficial and amazing relationships within the fungi kingdom. **Register online through the Moorestown Library website calendar or by calling the Reference Desk at 856-234-0333.**

A Closer Look at Lichen**Smith's Woods****Monday, January 22 @ 1:00pm [Register Here](#)****Wednesday, February 14 @ 1:00pm [Register Here](#)**

Not only can lichen endure freezing temperatures, but they are also an important food source for some species in the winter months. Join Naturalist Gina to look for lichen in our winter landscape while learning about the benefits of lichens to both humans and nature.

Nature Photography for Beginners**Historic Smithville Park****Thursday, January 18, 3:00 PM [Register Here](#)**

Do you have a digital camera but really have no idea how to use it beyond pushing the shutter button? Join us for a nature photography workshop while enjoying a relaxed walk around the historic village, creek, and lake. The focus of this program will be learning some simple techniques to capture more intriguing images of nature. Participants will learn how to apply different approaches and go beyond "automatic" settings, so a camera instead of a phone is highly recommended. Co-led by Jen Bulava and Dave Wybierala. *Prerequisites: A digital camera and a basic understanding of photography.* Please dress appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. Registration required.

Moonlit Walks**Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area****Thursday, January 25 @ 5:30PM [Register Here](#)****Long Bridge Park****Friday, February 23 @ 6:00PM [Register Here](#)**

Ever wonder what nocturnal creatures come out after the parks close? Join Naturalist Gina and a Park Ranger for this opportunity to explore our parks after dark. We'll listen and watch for nocturnal wildlife while admiring constellations, planets, and satellites. Leave the bright white flashlights at home and allow your eyes to adjust. **There is a strict limit of participants. Registration is required; no walk-ups permitted.**

Great Backyard Bird Count**Boundary Creek Natural Resource Area****Saturday, February 17 @ 10:00am [Register Here](#)**

Every year on the 3rd weekend of February, people all around the world unite to count birds in their backyard. These observations are logged via eBird and reported to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Are you interested in contributing data but don't have a backyard that attracts birds? Grab your binoculars (or borrow ours) and bundle up to join Naturalist Gina for some winter birding at one of our County Parks. **This program is suitable for beginner birders, ages 10+. Registration is required.**

Winter Waterfowl Lecture**Moorestown Library****Friday, February 23, 2pm**

This presentation offers an in-depth look at the over-wintering waterfowl species occurring in NJ. What makes ducks, geese, and swans different from other water birds? Discover their special adaptations, behaviors, and migratory journeys. Find out which species can be found in our Burlington County Parks in the winter months and the best places and times to look for them. Presented by Senior Naturalist Jen Bulava. **Register online through the Moorestown Library website calendar or by calling the Reference Desk at 856-234-0333.**

Service Projects

Beat the Bug: Spotted Lanternfly Egg Scraping

Agricultural Center

Wednesday, January 10 @ 12:30PM

Amico Island Park

Saturday, January 27 @ 12:30PM

Friday, February 9 @ 12:30PM

Pennington Park

Saturday, February 17 @ 12:30PM

Wednesday, February 28 @ 12:30PM

Join Naturalist Gina partnering with the USDA to scrape spotted lanternfly egg masses off trees. Winter is a great time to eliminate these pests before they hatch in the spring. A special demonstration will be given by a USDA plant health specialist. Volunteers will learn how to easily identify and destroy the eggs of this invasive species. You'll use your newly learned skills to seek out hidden egg masses and help us "beat the bug". Scraping tools will be provided. **Registration is required.** [Register here.](#)